defects in Gem Engines of Westland helicopters necessitating removal of engines. The defects have been listed in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 76.]

(b) The first engine problem was experienced after 58 hours of flying on the first batch of helicopters inducted into service.

(c) The assessments of Technical Evaluation Committee were based on Qualitative Requirements with regard to technical, operational and financial aspects.

(d) There have been two accidents to Westland helicopters resulting in the death of 4 crew and 6 passengers.

(e) The position on payment of compensation to next of kin of victims who died in helicopter crash near Vaishno Devi Shrine on 14-7-1988, is given in statement (*See below*)

Statement

Position on compensation payment to next of kin of victims who died in helicopter crash near Vaishno Devi Shrine on the 14th July, 1988

(1) *Crew:*	
(i) Wing Commander T.S. Gauri (on deputation from Air Force)	: Mrs. Lalit Gauri, w/o Late Wing Commander T.S. Gauri has received: (a) Air Force Group Insuranace (b) Benovelent Fund (c) Family Pension (d) Rs. 1 lakh *ex-pratia* payment.
(ii) Air Commodore H.S. Mangat	Mrs. Gurjit Mangat w/o Late Air Commodore H.S. Mangat has been paid Aviation Accident Insurance of Rs. 3 lakhs.
(2) *Passengers.*	
(i) Uma Sen ne Jharna Sen	: Rs. 3 lakhs has been paid as compensation to Dr. Subir Chandra Sen, husband of the deceased.
(ii) Tapan Gupta (iii) Gauri Gupta ne Srilekha Gupta (iv) Subodh Pareek (v) Kusum Pareek	An offer of compensation of Rs. 3 lakhs per passenger has been made to the family members of the deceased at S.N. 2 to 5 and discharge documents provided to members of each passenger's family which are awaited after execution.

Air India flights cancelled due to pilots perporting sick

*198. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 879 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 1989 and state:

(a) what are the details of Air India flights cancelled during the last six months on account of the pilots reporting sick at the nick of time;

(b) what is the estimated loss incurred by Air India on account thereof; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to stop last minute cancellation of flights on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) During the last six months, twenty one single flights of Air India were cancelled on account of the pilots reporting sick at the nick of time.

(b) The estimated loss on account of the above cancellations is Rs. 92.53 lakhs.

(c) Action has been taken under the Industrial Disputes Act.

Re-opening of the old silk route between India and China

*199. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reopen the old silk route between India and China; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Accident of Boeing 737 which crashed near Ahmedabad

*200. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Boeing 737 which met with an accident on October 19 last, had already met with two accidents in 1980 and 1983; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Boeing 737 aircraft VT-EAH which met with an accident on 19th October, 1988 was earlier involved in an accident at Delhi airport on 1.1.1980. Subsequently the aircraft was repaired and declared airworthy after certification and put into service.

(b) The aircraft was engaged in a training flight. During touch and go exercise, the aircraft sustained substantive damage during simulation of starboard engine failure. There was no injury to any person on board.

Chinese Jets for Pakistan

@408. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "Pak to buy jets from China" as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 12th February, 1989;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan is acquring sophisticated weapons from China;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(d) what precautionery steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 754 transferred from the 28th February, 1989.